

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the office action mailed April 22, 2003. Claims 1-20 remain under consideration in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 have been objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 1-5. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and to add the element of a scanning mechanism coupled to at least one of the motors, which is not found in claims 1-5. The added element finds support in the specification at page 1 lines 15-29, page 2 lines 2-3, page 4 line 12, page 5 line 13, and Figures 2 and 3, among other places. Each of claims 9-12 depends from claim 7 (through claim 8), and is thus distinguished from claims 1-5 by virtue of the added element.

Claim 8 has been amended to reflect the addition of the scanning mechanism element to claim 7.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the examiner asserts that it is not clear what "an original" is. Applicant respectfully traverses. The term "original" occurs many times in the specification, and refers to an item scanned by a scanner. See, for example, page 1 lines 13-14, page 1 lines 16-17, and page 3 line 21. Additionally, an original appears as item 101 in Figure 1, as noted at page 3 line 25 of the specification.

Claims 1, 7, 14, and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Müller (U.S. Pat. No. 6,201,361). Applicant respectfully traverses. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element of the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628,631, 2 USPQ2d 1051,1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Applicant's claim 1 recites a stepper motor and a DC motor mechanically coupled to the stepper motor. While Müller does show two motors, it fails to show a DC motor mechanically coupled to the stepper motor. Müller's first motor is

“mechanically coupled with the mail piece handler” (column 2 line 29), and its second motor is “mechanically coupled with the print rotor” (column 2 line 35). But Müller’s DC motor is not mechanically coupled to the stepper motor. Figure 3 of Müller shows that the motors are not mechanically coupled, and in fact, the system described in Müller is designed so that the print roller 30 can be controlled separately from the DC motor 53. The print roller 30, driven by stepper motor 50, makes only one revolution per mail piece, while DC motor 53 may run for longer periods (column 4 lines 29-33).

Similarly, applicant’s claim 7 recites a DC motor mechanically coupled to the stepper motor, claim 14 recites coupling a stepper motor mechanically to a DC motor, and claim 19 recites coupling means for mechanically coupling the stepper and DC motors. Each of these claims recites an apparatus or method in which a stepper motor is mechanically coupled to a DC motor, an element absent from Müller. Clearly, Müller does not describe all of the elements of applicant’s claims 1, 7, 14, and 19, and therefore does not anticipate those claims.

Claims 2-4, 8-11, and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Müller in view of Masaki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,053,833) or Barrett (U.S. Pat. No. 5,627,438). Applicant respectfully traverses. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, which recites a stepper motor and a DC motor mechanically coupled to the stepper motor. Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7, which similarly recites a stepper motor and a DC motor mechanically coupled to the stepper motor. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14, which recites coupling a stepper motor mechanically to a DC motor. “Claims in dependent form shall be construed to include all the limitations of the claim incorporated by reference into the dependent claim.” (37 CFR 1.75(c)). None of the cited references, including Müller as described above, discloses a DC motor mechanically coupled to a stepper motor. Therefore, combination of the references fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the rejected claims, and claims 2-4, 8-11, and 15-17 are believed allowable over Müller in view of Masaki or Barrett.

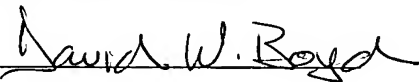
Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Müller, Masaki, and Barrett, and in further view of Dunfield (U.S. Pat. No. 5,633,568). Applicant respectfully traverses. Each of claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 20 depends from a claim that recites a DC motor mechanically coupled to a stepper motor, or

mechanically coupling a stepper motor to a DC motor, and thus each of these claims incorporates that limitation. None of the cited references, including Dunfield, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests mechanically coupling a DC motor and a stepper motor. Therefore claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, and 20 are believed allowable in view of the cited references.

The examiner has made of record but not relied upon Tokizaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,528,114), Silverbrook et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,425,700), and Eckert, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,635,205). These references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of applicant's claims.

Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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